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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KINSHA 02770 051159 Z

42
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 MC-02 EB-11 OMB-01 IO-12 RSR-01 /157 W
---------- 115688
R 051137 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2797
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS KINSHASA 2770

SECDEF FOR ASD/ ISA

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: CG, NI, MASS
SUBJECT: MIRAGES AND HELICOPTERS - MOBUTU LE MONDE INTERVIW

1. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN FULL TEXT OF APRIL 3 MOBUTU INTERVIEW WITH LE MONDE. HOWEVER, VOICE OF ZAIRE HIGHLIGHTING MAY BE OF INTEREST.

2. IN BROADCAST APRIL 5, VOA REPORTED DECISION TO BUY 15 MIRAGE JET FIGHTERS (ADDING THAT ZAIRE WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE 3 SQUADRONS OF MIRAGES OF 15 PLANES EACH) AND 30 PUMA HELICOPTERS. (ALSO REPORTED BY VOA).

3. ADDITIONAL POINTS WERE:
A) WHILE US AID TO ZAIRE EXCEEDS FRENCH AID AND IS GIVEN UNDER BETTER CONDITIONS, ZAIRE HOLDS TO ITS INDEPENDENCE AND WILL BUY WHERE IT WISHES. PRESENCE OF PERMANENT US MISSION KINSHASA DOES NOT PREVENT ZAIRE FROM BUYING FRENCH EQUIPMENT FOR ITS TROOPS.
B) ZAIRE DID NOT WITHDRAW FROM OCAM FOR PURPOSE OF ASSERTING LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA (OR EVEN CENTRAL AFRICA),
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AND IS NOT IN COMPETITION WITH NIGERIA. THE SOLUTION TO ANY POLITICAL IMBALANCE IN WEST AFRICA CAUSED BY GROWING WEIGHT OF NIGERIA LIES IN HANDS OF LEADERS OF FRANCOPHONE STATES IN AREA.

C) PRESENT REGIME IN ZAIRE IS NOT MILITARY SINCE SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS ALL PARTY MILITANTS. SOLDIERS HOLD GUN IN ONE HAND AND HOE IN OTHER.

D) ZAIRIAN DEMOCRACY STOPPED PATTERNING ITSELF ON WESTERN DEMOCRACY EIGHT YEARS AGO AND HAS ENJOYED STABILITY, PROSPERITY AND A SOUND CURRENCY SINCE. RESULTS ARE WHAT COUNT.

VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Event:
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Subject: MIRAGES AND HELICOPTERS - MOBUTU LE MONDE INTERVIW
TAGS: MASS, CG, NI
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